

Korean Service Corps
A long way from the A-frame Army of the Korean War
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“They went where vehicles could not go, overcoming extreme of weathers and terrain and the endless danger of the most hostile battlefields.” That was what General (Retired) Livsey, former U.S. Forces Korea has said about Korean Service Corps.

The Korean Service Corps is a paramilitary organization composed of more than 2,000 Korean national personnel during peacetime and can muster up to 30,000 during wartime.

Many believe that the Korean Service Corps merely performs general labor support. That is wrong.

“I’ve seen the changes happen to KSC over the time,” said Mr. Yun Sang-Hwan, a service support specialist with the G-3 Force Development/Plans Division who was with the KSC for thirty six years.

Constructing buildings, evacuating NEOs, renovating gunnery ranges, maintaining vehicles and driving ambulances – the Corps does it all.

The ‘A-Frame Army’ as the KSC was affectionately known during the Korean War, earned the admiration of all who knew it.

During the war, ammunition, food, clothing and medical supplies were most desperately needed and could not be delivered by vehicles. These battlefield needs had to be hand carried over the rugged terrain, a process that required a large number of men.

According to an emergency presidential decree, signed by Syngman Rhee, then president of the Republic of Korea, and promulgated on July 26, 1950, which allowed the ROK government to commandeer needed equipment, facilities or manpower. Through arrangement with the ROK Army, American forces obtained the civilian carriers they desperately needed to haul supplies to frontline.

At first they were called the Civilian Transportation Corps, then officially, the Korean Service Corps. Thus the KSC was born.

KSC organization played a vital role during the war. On ancient A-Frames, over steep and rugged terrain, in the face of enemy fire, they hauled the vitally needed ammunition, armament and food to the soldiers of the United Nation Command; on those same wooden A-Frames they carried out the dead and wounded.

While they did not carry any weapons, they were soldiers in every sense of word; they braved enemy fire without being able to shoot back. They accepted casualties and pressed on with their mission of forming a human bridge between aid stations and vital supply points.

“KSC has sustained more than 10,000 casualties in the line of duty during the Korean War. This shows that we were on the frontline just like line soldiers,” said Mr. Yi Kwang-Uk, a KSC company commander. Today excellence is the hallmark of the Korean Service Corps in all their missions. They are prepared to fully support U.S. forces in peacetime and in war.